

The PREFACE.

paring Bodies for our tast; as the dissolving of Metals with acid Liquors, make them tastable, which were before altogether insipid; thus Lead becomes sweeter then Sugar, and Silver more bitter then Gall, Copper and Iron of most loathsome tastes. And indeed the business of this sense being to discover the presence of dissolved Bodies in Liquors put on the Tongue, or in general to discover that a fluid body has some solid body dissolv'd in it, and what they are; whatever contrivance makes this discovery improves this sense. In this kind the mixtures of Chymical Liquors afford many Instances; as the sweet Vinegar that is impregnated with Lead may be discovered to be so by the affusion of a little of an Alcalizate solution: The bitter liquor of Aqua fortis and Silver may be discover'd to be charg'd with that Metal, by laying in it some plates of Copper: 'Tis not improbable also, but there may be multitudes of other ways of discovering the parts dissolv'd, or dissoluble in liquors; and what is this discovery but a kind of secundary tasting.

'Tis not improbable also, but that the sense of feeling may be highly improv'd, for that being a sense that judges of the more gross and robust motions of the Particles of Bodies, seems capable of being improv'd and assisted very many ways. Thus for the distinguishing of Heat and Cold, the Weather-glass and Thermometer, which I have describ'd in this following Treatise, do exceedingly perfect it; by each of which the least variations of heat or cold, which the most Acute sense is not able to distinguish, are manifested. This is oftentimes further promoted also by the help of Burning-glasses, and the like, which collect and unite the radiating heat. Thus the roughness and smoothness of a Body is made much more sensible by the help of a Microscope, then by the most tender and delicate Hand. Perhaps, a Physitian might, by several other tangible proprieties, discover the constitution of a Body as well as by the Pulse. I do but instance in these, to shew what possibility there may be of many others, and what probability and hopes there were of finding them, if this method were followed; for the Offices of the five Senses being to detect either the subtil and curious Motions propagated through all pellucid or perfectly homogeneous Bodies; Or the more gross and vibrative Pulse communicated through the Air and all other convenient mediums, whether fluid or solid: Or the effluvia

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effluvia of Bodies dissolv'd in the Air; Or the solv'd or dissoluble in Liquors, or the more quickening motion of heat in all or any of these: whatsoever any of these kinds of criteria, does afford a new sense. And what a multitude of these would be in his inquiries? And this for the helping and assisting faculty only.

Next, as for the Memory, or retentive faculty instructed from the written Histories of civil actions, a great assistance may be afforded the Memory, in the committing of things servable in natural operations. If a Physitian be more able in his Faculty, because he has had long experience of the remembrance of which, though perhaps very imperfect, his after actions: What ought to be thought of that a perfect register of his own experience, but is grown of many hundreds of years, and many thousands of

And though of late, men, beginning to be sensible of the want, have here and there registred and printed some few Collections, the most part they are set down very lamely and imperfectly, and times not so truly, they seeming, several of them, to be more of Ostentation then publique use: For, not to instance in the most part, omit those Experiences they have made, which have miscarried, it is very easie to be perceiv'd, that they have not only extol their own Prescriptions, and vilified others, withstanding all which, these kinds of Histories are necessary, even to the ablest Physitian.

What may not be expected from the rational faculty that is furnish'd with such Materials, and those so conveniently rang'd for use, that in a moment, as 'twere, thousands of things for the illustration, determination, or invention, may be represented even to the sight? How near must all those Propositions be which are examin'd, to the truth? And how difficult will it be for any, though a Philosopher, to scape from being discover'd, by touch, and so many other tryals?